

Appl. No. 10/676,552
Amdt. Dated May 5, 2005
Reply to Office Action of March 22, 2005

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] It is an object of the present invention to provide a novel laser cutting installation in which cutting, loading and unloading units are provided [as] in one single integrated machine.

Please replace paragraph [0040] with the following amended paragraph:

[0040] To [correct] correct the motion unit 20 to the loading and unloading units 22, 24, coupling devices 90 are provided on the loading and unloading units 22, 24. These are used not only to couple the motion unit 20 to the loading and unloading units 22, 24 but also to engage the machine frame 10 to retain the unit in its home position when uncoupled from the motion unit 20. The coupling device 90 will normally be engaged with the unload[ed]ing unit and snap into engagement with the motion unit 20. When the units 22, 24 are latched in the home position, the motion of the motion unit 20 away from the unit 22, 24 will unlatch the control unit from the coupling device 90.

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Please replace paragraph [0044] with the following amended paragraph:

[0044] Turning next to Figure 8b, the motion unit 20 has now moved the unloading unit 24 into its operative position over the workpiece support table 16. At this point, the fork assemblies 44a, 44b (added space) are moved to their open position and the frame 42 with the fork assemblies 44a, 44b is moved downwardly to a position below the upper surface of the grid 52. The fork assemblies 44a, 44b are moved to their closed position with the forks 45 being disposed between the grid elements 52. The frame 42 is then moved upwardly and the forks 45 lift the skeleton and the parts 28 from the surface of the workpiece support table 16 since they are now supported on the fork assemblies 44a, 44b. At this point in time, the motion unit 20 has been engaged by the coupling device 90 to the loading unit 22, and the loading unit 22 has picked up a sheet workpiece 26.